

TACEDDİNOĞULLARI: A POST-SELJUKIAN ERA BORDER COUNTRY IN NORTHEAST ANATOLIA

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ÖZ

Taceddinoğulları Beyliği, Orta Karadeniz sahilinde Bafra ve Ordu arasında, güneyde ise Niksar'ın da bulunduğu saha üzerinde, XIII. Yüzyılda Moğol istilası önünden kaçarak Anadolu'ya gelen Oğuzların Üç-Ok koluna mensup Çepniler tarafından kurulmuş bir beyliktir. Kaynaklara göre, Türkiye Selçukluları tarafından Hristiyanlara karşı sınırların korunması amacıyla Canik bölgesine yerleştirilen Çepni beylerinden Emir Taceddin'in kurduğu bu beyliğin merkezi Niksar'dı.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Taceddinoğulları Beyliği, Karadeniz, Bafra, Ordu, Niksar, Anadolu, Oğuzlar, Çepniler

SELÇUKLU SONRASI KUZEYDOĞU ANADOLU'DA BİR UÇ BEYLİĞİ: TACEDDİNOĞULLARI

ABSTRACT

Taceddinoğulları Emirate was founded by Çepnis, a branch of the Üç-Ok Oghuz, who fled into Anatolia in the 13th century before the Mongol invasion. It occupied an area between Bafra and Ordu on the black sea cost and included Niksar on its southern side. According to accounts, the founder of the emirate, Taceddin, was a Çepni who had been charged by the Seljuks of Rum with the duty of guarding the frontier in Canik against the Christians. The center of the emirate was Niksar.

Keywords: Taceddinoğulları Emirate, Black Sea, Bafra, Ordu, Niksar, Anadolu, Oğuzlar, Çepniler

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Following the victory of Seljukian Sultan Alp Arslan over the Byzantium on August 26, 1071 in Eastern Anatolian region, Malazgirt, the Turcomens started to move forward towards Black Sea region by 1074, where they established Danismend state. The state which was pioneered by Gümüş-tekın Ahmed Gazi and his companions, Çavuldur Çaka, Kara Dođan, Tur Hasan, İltekin Gazi and Kara-tekın was close to the borders consisting Toka, Komana, Turhal, Çorum and Niksar, which were apprehended afterwards including the Southern Anatolian Canik region.¹ In the next ten years, around 1079, 1080, by successful annexations, Turks reached to the boundaries of Trabzon Greek Empire; even so, by 1084, Kara-tekın, have set up a small county at Sinob.² Also, the Danismendians who have taken over Canik region in 1086, moved towards to Amisus (known as “Christian” Samsun)³, yet could not annex it, but set up a second city, “Muslim” Samsun, at a place very close to the Christian one.⁴

From the end of the 11th century to the first quarter of the 12th, the region from Canik to Sakarya have been under control by either Danismendians or Turkish Seljukians. When the Seljukian Sultan II. Kılıç Arslan (1152-1192), annexed Sivas, Niksar, Tokat, Komana and the rest of the Danismendian territory in the summer of 1175, a political unity goal was achieved and, this led Danismendian Stateman Zünnün, to be taken under shelter of Byzantium State.⁵

Following the annexation of İstanbul by the Latins during the Fourth Crusade in 1204, the Byzantium state continued to exist in two separate states, in İznik and in Trabzon; in which, the ruler of the second one in Trabzon, the Komnenos dynasty, started to attack Sinob. Defeating the Byzantian Emperor, Kir Alexis, I. Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev (1192-1196, 1205-1211) made him levy a charge to the Seljukian State (1206).⁶ However, following this, receiving a letter on November 3, 1214, heralding the annexation of Sinob by Kir Alexis, the Sultan İzzettin Keykavus (1211-1220), managed to attack over the

1 Kazım Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, Samsun 1940, 58.

2 Mükrimin Halil Yınanç, *Türkiye Tarihi. Selçuklular Devri Anadolu'nun Fethi I*, İstanbul 1944, s. 58; Osman Turan, *Selçuklu Tarihi ve Türk-İslam Medeniyeti*, Ankara 1969, 289.

3 “Christian Samsun”, of Genoviennes, were called as Kara Samsun and Hamamdüzü, and some of KALINTI exists today. For further info. Mevlud Ođuz, “Taceddin Ođulları,” *A.Ü. Dil-Tarih Cođrafya Fakültesi Dergisi*, VI/5 (1948), 470.

4 Kazım Dilcimen, 15.

5 Osman Turan, “II. Kılıç Arslan,” *MEB İslam Ansiklopedisi (İA)*; Osman Turan, *Selçuklu Zamanında Türkiye*, İstanbul 1971, 205.

6 Aurel Decel, “Karadeniz,” *İA*; M. Fuad Köprülü, *Osmanlı Devletinin Kuruluşu*, Ankara 1959, 28-29; Minas Bjişkyan, *Karadeniz Kıyıları Tarihi ve Cođrafyası*, trc. Hırant D. Andreasyan, İstanbul 1969, 44; Osman Turan, *Selçuklular Zamanında Türkiye*, 281; Osman Turan, “I. Keyhusrev,” *İA*; İ. Hakkı Uzunçarşılı, *Osmanlı Tarihi*, c. 2, TTK, Ankara 1975, 351.

Byzantine Emperor with the help of the Turkmenians living by the borders. The Turkmenians captured Kir Alexis and brought him to the Sultan. The Sultan walked over Sinob with Alexis and the city fell down in a short time with a deal which led Alexis and some of his company, set out to Trabzon. Beginning from this time up until the Mongolian invasion, Trabzon Komnenos Emperors were subject to the Seljukian State.⁷

Finding a chance by the new Sultan I. Alaeddin Keykubad's (1220-1237) invasion over Erzincan, and Celaleddin Harizmşah's expedition over East Anatolia, the Trabzon Greeks, attacked Samsun and Sinob in 1228 and plundered the Seljukian coast towns towards Ünye. Heralding this, Keykubad returned back from his campaign over Erzurum and sent his fleet to Trabzon after saving the cities from the Greeks. Meanwhile, the land army commanded by Melik Gıyaseddin Keyhusrev and Atabeg Mübarizeddin Er-tokuş, were moving towards Maçka, from Gümüşhane and Zigana lines. To resist the Seljukians, Trabzon Greek Emperor Andronikos (1222-1235) declared state of war from Georgia to Ünye. Due to the inconvenient climate conditions, the Seljukian army was obliged to withdraw.⁸ Following this, recognizing Harizmşah in stead of I. Keykubad, Trabzon Greek Emperor, Andronikos made war at Yassı-Çimen and this paved him to be subject to Seljukian rule by 1230.⁹

In spite of the Seljukian defeat in Köseadağ War in 1243 by the Mongolians and the death of the Sultan II. Keyhüsrev in 1246, Anatolia was under control of Muinüddin Pervane Süleyman beginning from 1261. Yet, used cleverly by the Mongolians, he was sentenced to death by Abaka Han in 1277 and a new era started in Anatolia with the elimination of Seljukians and the rule of İlhanlı federal governors.¹⁰ This temporary rule of the Mongolians between 1277 and 1308 led a falling down in Anatolia both in political, economic and social ways, which was deepened by Mongolian governor Timurtaş Noyan's (1316-1327) uprising to the Mongolian state.¹¹

7 K. Nuri Genç Osman-F. Nafiz Uzluç, *Anadolu Selçuki Tarihi*, Ankara 1954, 61; Osman Turan, *İstanbul'un Fethinden Önce Yazılmış Tarihi Takvimler*, Ankara 1954, 76; M. Fuad Köprülü, *Osmanlı Devletinin Kuruluşu*, 29; Osman Turan, "I. Keykavus," *İA*; Osman Turan, *Selçuklular Tarihi ve Türk-İslam Medeniyeti*, 298; Osman Turan, *Selçuklular Zamanında Türkiye*, 3-4; Claude Cahen, *Osmanlılardan Önce Anadolu'da Türkler*, trc. Yıldız Moran, İstanbul 1979, 131.

8 Osman Turan, "I. Keykubad," *İA*; M.C.Şehabeddin Tekindağ, "Trabzon," *İA*.

9 Osman Turan, *Tarihi Takvimler*, 76; Turan, *Selçuklular Tarihi...*, 299; Turan, *Selçuklular Zamanında Türkiye*, 361; Claude Cahen, *Osmanlılardan Önce Anadolu'da Türkler*, 138.

10 Turan, *Tarihi Takvimler*, 78; İbn Bibi, *el-Evamir el-Alaiyye*, ed. Adnan S. Erzi, Ankara 1956, 524-527; Köprülü, 33; Turan, *Selçuklular Tarihi...*, 300 vd.; Nejat Kaymaz, *Pervane Muinüddin Süleyman*, Ankara 1970, 178-179; Turan, *Selçuklular Zamanında Türkiye*, 430 vd.

11 Turan, *Selçuklular Zamanında Türkiye*, 505.

The Chepnian* Rule in Mid-Black Sea, in Post-Seljukian Era

In this disorder in Anatolia, migrating to Anatolia in big numbers, a Turkmenian branch, the Chepnians, were placed to Mid-Black Sea region and Trabzon Greek State borders, following the Sinob occupation by Muinüddin Pervane Süleyman, in 1266. The Chepnians, under the command of Taybuğa, were successful in repelling the Trabzon Greek attack over Sinob in 1276, that has been under control of III. Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev (1264-1283) and Taybuğa was rewarded by III. Keyhüsrev, whom has also suppress Cimri uprising among Chepnians.¹²

Located in mid-Black region, the Chepnians, tried to annex and Turkify the region in two directions. One of them was reaching to the shore, from the Black Sea Mountains and high plateaus, or Harşit river, the other was coming from Sinob and Samsun line that followed the sea shore. The second one was more successful in Turkifying the region. In the second half of the 13th century, during the Mongol invasion over Turkish Seljukians, the coast defense against Trabzon Greek State, was realized by Chepnians, whom we know from *Hacı Bektaş-ı Veli Vilayetnamesi* (a reputable clergy of Anatolian Seljukian era) that lived even before the Baba İshak uprising. This strong Oğuz branch, was able to Turkify the mountainous region, starting from the east of Samsun, continuing to Giresun.¹³ Fighting against Trabzon Komnenosians, the Christian community in that area, Can or Çan, were to disappear from the scene with the Chepnian attacks.¹⁴ Faruk Sümer, claims that the name, *Tzapnides*, which was refered in Michel Paneretes' book, was read as the people living in Lazik region, was nothing else but Chepnians.¹⁵ Also, Osman Turan states that the Trabzon Greek historian Michel Paneretes' book, *Chronique de Trebizonde*, it was mentioned that in the 14th century, the Chepnians (Tzapnides) reached till Tirebolu coming from Gümüşhane and he states that because, the European historians J. Philip Fallmerayer and Le Beau did not understand the *Tzapnides*, they thought it to be Tzan, the Christian

* Orj. Çepniler.

12 İbn Bibi, 72; M.Th.Houtsma, *Recueil des Textes Relatifs de l'Histoire des Seldjoudides*, IV, Leiden 1902, 333; M.Nuri Genç Osman-F.Nafiz Uzluk, *Ibid*, 300; Köprülü, *Osmanlı Devletinin Kuruluşu*, 46; Nejat Kaymaz, *Pervane..*, 111-113; Turan, *Ibid*, 529; Faruk Sümer, *Oğuzlar (Türkmenler) Tarihleri-Boy Teşkilatı-Destanları*, İstanbul 1980, 327.

13 Sümer, 327.

14 Turan, *Selçuklular Tarihi...*,303-305; Faruk Sümer, "Anadolu'da Moğollar," *Selçuklu Araştırmaları Dergisi*, I (1969),46; Turan, *Selçuklular Zamanında Türkiye*, 512.

15 Sümer, *Oğuzlar*, 328.

community, Can or Çan branch.¹⁶ The region, they lived was named as Canit or Canik, and the mountains lying in the south was called Canik Mountains. Due to this branch, the Seljukians referred the region, even from Samsun to Batum in the Black Sea, as Canit or *Mülk-i Canit*, whereas the Komnenosian governors were referred as *Melik-i Canit*, *Caniti* or *Trabzuni*.¹⁷

Successfully Turkifying the Eastern Black Sea, from the second half of the 13th century, the Chepnians, moved towards Giresun in 1302 and set up small branches there.¹⁸ Belonging to the one of them of the 24 Oğuz branches, the Chepnians were admitted to be coming from Gök Han's, who was of the left arm of the branch, fourth son Chepni. According to Reşiduddin, the Chepni was regarded as "ready to fight when he sees the oil", whereas according to Yazıcıoğlu, it was regarded as "ready to fight when he sees the oil in blood and destroys."¹⁹ Turcolog Nemeth, states the Chepni name was related with the Chap and Cheper words, which were in Kirgisian language and the Chepni branch was meant "border protector."²⁰

After 1320, when the Mongolian influence decreased, the Turcomens invaded Trabzon Greek State's territories and got the mountainous regions. During the II. Manuel reign in 1332, the Turcomen ruler Bayram²¹ attacked Trabzon and moved close to the outer regions, but returned back understanding the difficulty.²² In the mid 14th century, around today's Ordu region, it was seen that a Turkish ruler named Bayramoğlu Hacı Emir İbrahim (Hadshymris) dominated the region. Likewise his father, Bayram Beğ, Hacı Emir İbrahim, was constantly fighting against Trabzon Greek State. As a matter of fact, in 1358, he achieved to enter Maçka, a sub-region in Trabzon, and returned back to his territory after a rich plunder.²³

As mentioned earlier, the Mongolian domination was weakened in Anatolia starting from 1320. At the end, following the demolishing of

16 Turan, *Selçuklular Zamanında Türkiye*, 513.

17 İbn Bibi, 729; Aziz b. Ardaşir-ş Astarabadi, *Bezm u Rezm*, ed. Kılıslı Rıfat Bilge, İstanbul 1928, 433; Osman Turan, *Türkiye Selçukluları Hakkında Resmi Vesikalar*, Ankara 1958, 164-165.

18 A. Astarabadi, *Bezm u Rezm*, 433; Turan, *Resmi Vesikalar*, 167.

19 Sümer, *Oğuzlar*, 210.

20 Mentioned by Gyula Nemeth, H. Namık Orkun, *Oğuzlara Dair*, Ankara 1935, 35.

21 Father of founder of Hacı Emiroğulları Settlement. Bayramlı, bordered in Ordu, is known as the oldest settlement in the region, and it is thought to get its name from Hacı Emir İbrahim's father Bayram Bey. For further info. Sümer, *Oğuzlar*, 327.

22 M.C. Şhabeddin Tekindağ, "Trabzon," *İA*.

23 Michel Paneretes, *Chronique Trebizonde*, Le Beau, *Histoire du Bas Empire XX*, Paris 1836, 494, mentioned in Sümer, *Oğuzlar*, 327; Tekindağ, "Trabzon," *İA*; Yaşar Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, Ankara 1970, 89.

Mongolian rule in 1337, the Turcomen started to move independently and in the words of Ahmed Tevhid “*There started to exist as many beys, in every corner in the land and they were not getting close to any status, but “Sultan” and trying to set up their own ruling.*”²⁴ We see that some of these attorneys, whom were influenced by the Turkish Seljukian or Mongolian rules, were successful to survive and to set up their own states, in order to continue their political control.²⁵

Establishment of Taceddinoğulları Settlement*

It is seen that, before the main founder of the settlement of Taceddinoğulları, who came to be Taceddin Bey, the Niksar area is under control of Emir Doğancık. This area has been assessed by Anatolian general governor Çobanoğlu Timurtaş Noyan to the İlhanlı State.²⁶ Emir Doğancık’s territories lay to the west of Trabzon Empire and to the southeast of territories of Kastamonu governor I. Süleyman (1309?-1340).²⁷

El-Ömeri’s thinking of Emir Doğancık as a substitute of Süleyman Bey (Kastamonu governor), shows his being alive around 1309 and having a large amount of territories. Referring Hüseyin Hüsameddin, a well known historian and writer of History of Amasya (*Amasya Tarihi*), according to a tomb epigraph, Doğancık is also known as Doğanşah and relying on a historian document of 1257, he takes his genealogy up to Ebu Bekr el-Kemahi, who has no relation with the Seljukians. Also, the grandson of el-Kemahi, Nureddin Alp Arslan’s being *sheikh* and his son, who was called el-Rifaizade Alaeddin Savcı, could reveal that Nureddin Alp Arslan could be a Rifai sheik.²⁸

As a clergy in Niksar, Hüseyin Hüsameddin mentions that he identified two tombs on the way to Danişmend Gazi tomb, and was able to read some epigraph. The date on the epigraph was of 747 (1347) or 749 (1349) and belonged to the grand governor and commander Siraceddin Doğanşah Alp.

The Ottoman Turkish, the word *elif-cim*, was to be either *te-elif-cim* or

24 Ahmed Tevhid, “Rum Selçuki Devleti’nin İnkırazı ile Teşekkül Eden Tava’if-i Müluk,” *Türk Tarih Encümeni Mecmuası*, 1, 318-321.

25 Oğuz, “Taceddinoğulları,” 470.

* Orj. Taceddinoğulları Beyliği

26 el-Ömeri, *Mesalikü'l-ebzar fi Memalikü'l-Ebsar*, Franz Taeschner, ed. Leipzig 1929, 31; A. Z. Velidi Togan, *Umumi Türk Tarihine Giriş*, İstanbul 1970, 318; Yaşar Yücel, *XIII.-XIV. Yy. Kuzey-Batı Anadolu Tarihi Çobanoğulları-Candaroğullar Beylikleri*, Ankara 1980, 188.

27 El-Ömeri, 33; Yaşar Yücel, 88.

28 Hüseyin Hüsameddin, *Amasya Tarihi*, c.3, İstanbul 1927, 27; Kazım Dalcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, Samsun 1940, 31; Oğuz, “Taceddinoğulları,” 472.

sim-ra-elif-cim, was on the epigraph and was the same as Doğanşah or Doğancık. Also, from Hüsameddin, we see that Doğanşah's death was either 747 or 749.²⁹

Kazım Dılcimen mentions in his article that, “*If we are to believe Hüseyin Hüsameddin's genealogy, then, it could be derived that Doğancık had no relation with Taceddin.*”³⁰ Since the mentioned epigraph did not survive up to today, we do not have the chance to confirm it, but we can set in order some information about Doğancık, who is defined as father of Taceddin, like this:

Sultan Taceddin Altunbaş,³¹ who was released in governing by Doğancık (Doğanşah), has struggled with Taşan Bey³² and Gazi Çelebi³³ and has of strong influence while the İlhanian state was collapsing at Anatolia.³⁴

Doğanşah, has taken side with Emir Timurtaşoğlu Sheikh Hasan and this shows that he was against Eretna Bey.³⁵ After a while, taking extra forces from Sheikh Hasan, Doğancık moved from Niksar and annexed Eretna Bey's territory, Amasya and in here, he made Gazi Çelebi, who has fought against him, move back to Simre.^{36,37} Eretna Bey, did not interfere to the attacks, because of the possibility of an uprising of his governors. On the face of this, Eretna Bey, was taken under patronage of Egyptian governor, Melik Nasır, who had expanded his territories up to Malatya and Divriği and achieved to leave Sheikh Hasan stable. Following death of Egyptian governor, Eretna Bey started his independence again and sent Samsun governor Habilzade Zeyneddin Tuli Bey, to Doğanşah. Arriving to Amasya, Tuli Bey made Doğanşah get away to Niksar (1341). After 5-6 years of this incident, as mentioned earlier,

29 H. Hüsameddin, *Amasya Tarihi*, c.3, 30; Dılcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 31; Oğuz, “Taceddinoğulları,” 470.

30 Dılcimen, 31.

31 The son of Anatolian Seljukian Sultan II. Gıyaseddin Mesud (d.1330) and the last Seljukian sultan. For further info. Dılcimen, 46.

32 The founder of Taşanoğulları settlement of Havza, Merzifon and the last emir of Taceddin Altunbaş. For further info. Dılcimen, 55.

33 Son of Mühezzüddin Mesud Bey (d.1300) of Pervane family. He has become Sinop emir after his father's death and had achievements in waging sea-wars against Trabzon Greek Empire and Genovians. He has accepted to be subjected to Candaroğlu Süleyman Bey since he had no successor and died in 1322. Gazi Çelebi, was thought to be the son of Anatolian Seljukian Sultan II. Gıyaseddin, but was not confirmed. For further info. İsmail Hakkı Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri ve Akkoyunlu, Karakoyunlu Devletleri*, Ankara 1969, 148.

34 Oğuz, 472.

35 For further readings of Erenian, İ. Hakkı Uzunçarşılı, “Sivas-Kayseri ve Dolaylarında Eretna Devleti,” *Belleten*, XXXII/126 (1968), 161-163.

36 Today known as Vezirköprü. Paul Wittek, *Menteşe Beyliği*, Tur. O. Saik Gökyay, Ankara 1944, 33; Yaşar Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin...*, 107.

37 Oğuz, “Taceddinoğulları,” 473.

Doğanşah died in 747 or 749 (1347 or 1349) at Niksar.³⁸ It is mentioned that following his death, his son Taceddin has taken up the power in 1347.³⁹

Up until here, the mentioned Doğanşah may be questioned, since we do not have any confirmation besides Hüseyin Hüsameddin's book. Most of the books revealing that era make us think that Taceddin Bey was the main founder of the settlement and could be of Seljukian genealogy.⁴⁰ More over, it is said that Hacı Emirli Settlement, which occupied an important place in Turkifying Ordu and Giresun region, was established by the Chepnians, and not only this settlement, but *Taceddinoğulları*, *Bafra Emirleri* and *Kubadoğulları*, settlements in the east and south of Samsun may have been founded by Chepnians.⁴¹ In another book, it is mentioned that, during "Tevaif-I Müluk", Taceddin and Bayramoğlu Hacı Emir İbrahim Bey have achieved to settle around Samsun and Trabzon, and the founder of these settlements, were of Chepnians, who were settled down by the Anatolian Seljukians in order to ensure security of the borders against Christians in Canik Region.⁴²

As referred above, the Chepnians, continued to move forward to Trabzon Komnenos Empire territories and the empire has found the only way to be safe in forming family bonds with Chepnians. In order to protect his territories, III. Alexios (1349-1390) gave his sister and his daughter to the Chepnians. While Theodora was to marry Ordu governor Hacı Emir İbrahim, his daughter Evodokia was to marry Taceddin Bey, who was known as governor of *Dschinatines* or *Tatziatin* (Niksar and Kelkit).⁴³ III. Alexios has left Giresun as a dowry and came to Oeneo⁴⁴ to see Taceddin Bey. After invading Eudokia, Taceddin Bey returned to Limnia (today, Terme and

38 H. Hüsameddin, *Amasya Tarihi*, vol.3, 30; Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 31; İ. Hakkı Uzunçarşılı, "Eretna," *İA*; Uzunçarşılı, "Sivas-Kayseri ve dolaylarında Eretna Devleti," 155; Erdoğan Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları," *Türk Dünyası El Kitabı*, Ankara 1376, 863; Erdoğan Merçil, *Müslüman-Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, İstanbul 1985, 319.

39 Oğuz, 473; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları," 863; Merçil, *Müslüman-Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 319.

40 Halil Edhem, *Düvel-İslamiyye*, İstanbul 1927, 319; İ.H.Uzunçarşılı, *Kitabeler I*, İstanbul 1927, 27; Dilcimen, 31; Mustafa Nuri Paşa, *Netayicü'l Vukuat (Kurumları ve Örgütleriyle Osmanlı Tarihi)*, vol.I-II, by Neşet Çağatay, Ankara 1979, 37.

41 Faruk Sümer, "Osmanlı Devrinde Anadolu'da Yaşayan Bazı Üç-Oklu Oğuz Boylarına Mensup Teşekküller," *İktisat Fakültesi Mecmuası*, vol. 11,no.1-4 (1949), 452.

42 Yaşar Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 89.

43 J.P. Fallmerayer, *Trabzon Rum İmparatorluğu Tarihi* (non-published translation is in the Library of Turkish Historian Association), 195; Dilcimen, *Canik Beyler*, 34; Oğuz, "Taceddinoğulları," 478; Adnan S. Erzi, "Akkoyunlu ve Karakoyunlu tarihi Hakkında," *Belleten*, XVIII/70 (1970), 189; M. C.Şehabeddin Tekindağ, "Trabzon," *İA*; Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri...*,153; Sümer, *Oğuzlar*, 328; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin*, 89; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları,"863; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 319.

44 Today known as Ünye.

Çarşamba region) in November 21, 1381. III. Alexios' visiting Taceddin Bey himself, shows his importance and gratitude, and more over, Trabzon Greek Empire found the best way to stop Turkish invasion by fortifying Trabzon Castle.⁴⁵

Political and Military Operations of Taceddin Bey

Taceddin Bey, who dominated over Niksar and around, was called "Canikian*" or "Caniti," regarding the reference of the region, since the borders have almost enlarged up to Amasya, Samsun, Orud, Giresun and Trabzon. At first, it is seen that, Taceddin Bey was subject to Amasya *Emir*, Hacı Şadgeldi⁴⁶, who has declared autonomy to the Eretnaian State in 1361. Meanwhile, although the Eretnaian State was governed by Alaeddin Ali Bey, it could not be ignored that Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed⁴⁷ was getting more dominant. Kadı Burhaneddin was in thought of eliminating Alaeddin Ali Bey, and Amasya Emir hacı Şadgeldi, who was an enclosure to capture the state, Tokat Emir, Sheikh Necib, as well as Niksar Domain Taceddin Bey, who was obliged to be levied to Eretnaian State. In order to accomplish this, first, persuading Alaeddin Ali Bey in 1379 spring, Kadı Burhaneddin has gone on an campaign over Niksar by blocking Taceddin Bey, but the expedition was in no good and Kadı Burhaneddin had rescued arduously, the armament and *tablhane*⁴⁸ from plunder. Also, following the plunder of Niksar, the most reliant troops in the army, attached to the Samagar⁴⁹ tribe, did not get a share from the pillage due to Alaeddin Ali Bey; and from this time on, they became hostile to the state.⁵⁰

This campaign enlightens us for another point of view: Following this incident, Taceddin Bey, who was obliged to be levied to Eretnaian State,

45 Oğuz, "Taceddinoğulları," 479.

* *Orj.* Canikli

46 One of the emirs adhered to the Eretnians, and writer of *el-Mesailü'l-mensure*. Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri*, 218.

47 Born on 1345 in Kayseri. According to Bezm u Rezm, he is of Salur tribe of Oğuz (Bezm u Rezm,42) he is assigned as Kadı by the ruler Mehmed Bey in 1365 and became son in law. In 1378, he is assigned as vezir by Alaeddin Ali Bey. Yaşar Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 15.

48 Tablhane is the valuable music instruments. İ. H. Uzunçarşılı, *Osmanlı Devlet Teşkilatına Medhal*, Ankara 1970, 135.

49 Samagar tribe took its name from Samagar Noyan, whom has settled down around Kayseri with 10,000 soldiers. Oğuz, 474; Yücel, 29.

50 A. Astarabadi, *Bezm u Rezm*; 180, Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 32; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 38.

started to act independently. He was successful in forcing back the second Eretnaian attack with the help of one of Kadı Burhaneddin's enemies, Hacı Şadgeldi, and Alaeddin Bey, who could not survive from black death, and died on the way.⁵¹

Starting to rule the state, Kadı Burhaneddin's second plan was to get rid of Hacı Şadgeldi and started to get ready for an attack. While Kadı was close to Tokat in an expedition, Hacı Şadgeldi was on the way with his allies from Amasya. Setting the headquarters in between Tokat and Danismendiyye village, Kadı fought off Hacı Şadgeldi and defeated him, whereas, Amasya Emir, was killed and the troops including Taceddin Bey's arms, was obliged to pull back (1381 Fall).⁵²

In 1382, Taceddin Bey's neighbors were; Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed (1382-1398), who had established a state of his own, after seizing Eretnaian territories in Sivas and Kayseri region; I. Murad (1362-1389) of the Ottoman State, Celeeddin Beyazid (1362-1385) of Kastamonu, Mutahharten (1379-1403) of Erzincan, Seyyidi Hüsam⁵³ of Tokat, Amasya Emir's son Emir Ahmed and Hacı Emir İbrahim of Ordu and Giresun. After Kadı Burhaneddin's acquiring the Eretnaian state in 1382, and getting aware of the danger, the rest of the Emirs and governors of Anatolia, were engaged in an alliance. First, Taceddin Bey and Seyyidi Hüsam merged and attacked Akşehir,⁵⁴ and plundered the region.⁵⁵ Then, heralding the unrests in Sivas, Seyyidi Hüsam used the advantage and pulling aside Tokat's wealthy families to his side, he allied with *Emir* Ahmed and Mongolian *bey* Nebi. Also, he encouraged *Emir* Ahmed, son of Hacı Şadgeldi, in order to include Taceddin and Mutahharten to the alliance.⁵⁶ Preventing this antagonist action, Kadı Burhaneddin, at first seized Tokat and captured Seyyidi Hüsam, yet when he promised to be excluded from the alliance, he pardoned him and sent him to Pilgrimage. This time, he moved towards Kayseri.⁵⁷ While Kadı was in Kayseri, he found out

51 *Bezm u Rezm*, 180; Dilcimen, 32.

52 *Bezm u Rezm*, 249; Ali Kemal, *Erzincan Tarihi*, İstanbul 1932, 72; Dilcimen, 32; İ. H. Uzunçarşılı, "Sivas ve Kayseri Hükümdarı Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed," *Belleten*, XXXII/126, 199; Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri...*, 163; Yücel, 57.

53 Descendant of Esseyid Hüsameddin Hüseyin Feridüddin Muhammed Fergana, who migrated from Transoxiana. Hüseyin Hüsameddin, *Amasya Tarihi*, vol.3, 81.

54 Today known as Aksar, located in the southeast of Suşehri. For further info. Ebu Bekir Tıhrani, *Kitabı-ı Diyarbakriyye*, volII, pub. N. Lugal-F.Sümer, Ankara 1962, 42; Uzunçarşılı, "Sivas ve Kayseri Hükümdarı Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed," 198; Yücel, 51.

55 Oğuz, "Taceddinoğulları," 475; Yücel, Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti, 81.

56 *Bezm u Rezm*, 263-264; Yücel, 64.

57 *Bezm u Rezm*, 306; Yücel, 81.

that Siraceddin (he belonged to the reputable family of Kılıç Arslan), who was assigned to annex Koyulhisar,⁵⁸ achieved to uphold the region and to arrest one of close relatives of Taceddin Bey. Pleased with this, Kadı Burhaneddin assigned him to rule the castle. After some time, Taceddin's another close relative Mehmed Feyç, came to Kadı and asked release of the prisoner.⁵⁹ Meanwhile, the Mongolian ruler of Karahisar castle close to Amasya border, Nebi passed away and his brother maintained that he wanted to leave the castle to Kadı. Adding more to his territories with this Mongolian castle, now, Kadı started to rule over a large region of Niksar and Amasya, and was getting to be an endanger.⁶⁰

These developments have broken Taceddin Bey's alliance with Amasya Emir Ahmed, provoked by Seyyidi Hüsam. Taceddin Bey, being aware of the increasing power of Kadı Burhaneddin, who has also pulled the neighboring *bey*s and tribes to his side, wanted to suggest an alliance to Kadı. When he was not responded, he became an ally with Emir Ahmed to attack Kadı.

Meanwhile, Kadı continued his moves and aimed to seize Turhal Castle and the whole town and for this, he built a castle facing Turhal. Learning this plan, Taceddin Bey sent a local notable *Sheikh* Nusret to Kadı and wanted him to be a mediator between them. He wanted Kadı to end the campaign over Amasya, which was ruled by *Emir* Ahmed and to demolish the castle newly built in Turhal. Taceddin Bey hoped to be a trustworthy to *Emir* Ahmed.⁶¹ But Kadı Burhaneddin rejected him and answered him “*Sword would be my response.*”

So, up until they got ready for the expedition, Kadı hold Taceddin's mediator and started to move towards Taceddin Bey's territories with 5000 armed forces. Heralding the news, Taceddin Bey wanted help from Emir Ahmed and two allies responded the enemy with 7000 forces. The battle ended with Kadı Burhaneddin's victory while the rest were dispersed and two commanders had had a narrow escape.

Some time later, this time, Taceddin Bey tried his chance by sending *Sheikh* Nusret's son to Kadı. Kadı told him that he could sign an agreement only if Taceddin would not cooperate with *Emir* Ahmed, one more time.⁶²

58 Located in between Şebın Karahisar and Niksar. For further info. Tıhrani, Kitab-ı Diyarbakriyya, 42.

59 *Bezm u Rezm*, 314; Dılcımen, 33; Yücel, 83.

60 *Bezm u Rezm*, 314-318.

61 Taceddin Bey hoped to prevent the common enemy with his ally Emir Ahmed, Ladik Emir Kubadođlu Ali Bey. For further info. Dılcımen, *Canık Beyleri*, 48.

62 *Bezm u Rezm*, 318; Dılcımen, *Canık Beyleri*, 34; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 84.

Following this, Taceddin Bey, himself came to Kadı Burhaneddin and showed him his respect and obedience. Then, with an excuse to bring his sons to his presence, he ran away to *Sunisa*.⁶³ Meanwhile, sheltering in the Turhal Castle, Emir Ahmed did not know Taceddin Bey's unilateral action with Kadı and his running away to Sunisa; on the contrary, he hoped Taceddin Bey would come back. At that time, Kadı Burhaneddin has returned back to Tokat, after leaving his forces to plunder Emir Ahmed's assets. (1386 winter). Here, Kadı found out that Taceddin Bey and Emir Ahmed were about to take pre-cautionary acts by meeting at Sunisa. Kadı was obliged to make a move with his enemies' plans, so with the help of the local notables in Tokat, he entered Taceddin Bey's territory and besieged Niksar, which was protected by Taceddin Bey's son, Alp Arslan.⁶⁴ As a result of the battle of two forces, in spite of his strength and fighting skills, Alp Arslan could not prevent leaving Niksar plundered by enemy. Following this achievement of Kadı, Taceddin Bey and Emir Ahmed offered peace agreement and Kadı Burhaneddin, admitting this request, returned to Tokat.⁶⁵

Taceddin Bey understood he could not enlarge his territory on the face of Kadı Burhaneddin, so he determined his next step as the neighborhood territory, Hacı Emiroğlu Settlement. Also, the second reason for choosing this region, was the disorders in the statehood. The founder of the settlement Hacı Emir İbrahim was surviving from a fatal illness, and was planning to bring his son Suleiman Bey, as a successor even if he survived. The notables of the settlement admitted this and took an oath to stay loyal to him. However, surviving from the illness, Hacı Emir İbrahim did not keep his promise and led an unrest, since Süleyman Bey did not want to leave his newly post. With the help of the local notables, Hacı Emir started to struggle with his son.⁶⁶

This was the situation that led Taceddin Bey move towards the region. Ready for the seizure, Taceddin Bey made his moves over Ordu and Ünye, but did not get concrete results in both two tries, other than plunder, and he started arrangements for an offensive war. Hereupon, Süleyman Bey of Hacıemiroğulları requested help from Kadı Burhaneddin for the domestic uprisings. Kadı accepted the offer, sent his forces and warned Taceddin Bey, about not to

63 Located in the west of Niksar, northwest of Amasya, east of Ladik, close to Kelkit. Kitab-ı Diyarbakriyya, 43; Tayyib Gökbilgin, "XV. Ve XVI.yy'da Eyalet-i Rum," *Vakıflar Dergisi*, 5 (1965), 52.

64 Taceddin Bey's son Alp Arslan is described as "strong and brave like a lion, virtuous literature and Arabic lover" in *Bezm u Rezm* (pg. 432).

65 *Bezm u Rezm*, 320-324; Dılcimen, 34; Yücel, 85.

66 *Bezm u Rezm*, 333; Dılcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 26.

intervene in the state business of Süleyman Bey and his father by a mediator Sheikh Yar Ali. Ali started his journey to Sivas after getting the promise from Taceddin, but on his way to Sivas, he learned that Taceddin Bey and Süleyman Bey waged war, and Taceddin Bey died, while the 500 soldiers were kept as prisoners.⁶⁷ (1387)

After Taceddin Bey's death, Kadı Burhaneddin sent Emir Said to Niksar, and on his way to preparations for annex, the notables of Niksar delivered the city keys to Kadı. While Kadı was in Niksar, Süleyman Bey declared his adherence to his brother. Gaining Niksar without waging a war, Kadı Burhaneddin acquired Taceddin Bey's İskefser Castle⁶⁸ and allowed Süleyman Bey to hold the power.⁶⁹ Kadı Burhaneddin has not abstained from entering the territory of the neighboring state, while he had declared Taceddin Bey had broken the law.

Following Taceddin Bey's death in 1387, his wife, the daughter of III. Alexious Eudokia, whom he married in 1381, returned to his father to Trabzon. While she was there, Byzantian ruler V. Yohannes Paleologos (1379-1390) sent a message that his son II. Manuel Paleologos (1391-1425) would desire to marry her; yet he, himself, would marry her in the following period.⁷⁰

Political and Military Operations in the Post-Taceddin Bey Era of His Sons

Following their father's death, Mahmud Çelebi and Süleyman Bey requested Kadı Burhaneddin to levy a charge and to send a troop to their territory up to the condition of getting freed. Kadı, accepting the offer, declared that from now on, the territory of Taceddin Bey was subject to Mahmud Çelebi, also, warned Hacı Emiroğlu Süleyman about not to make an expedition over *Taceddinoğulları* Settlement.⁷¹

From 1387 on, with the condition of attached to Kadı Burhaneddin, *Taceddinoğulları* Settlement was ruled by the eldest son Mahmud Çelebi.

67 *Bezm u Rezm*, 334 vd.; Dılcımen, 27; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 90; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları Beyliği," TDEK, 863; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 319.

68 Today in the border of Tokat's Reşadiye country. Dılcımen, 35.

69 *Bezm u Rezm*, 337; Dılcımen, *Canik Beyleri*, 27-35; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 91.

70 J.P. Fallmerayer, *Trabzon Rum İmparatorluğu Tarihi*, 195; Dılcımen, 34; Oğuz, "Taceddinoğulları," 480.

71 *Bezm u Rezm*, 337; Dılcımen, 35; Oğuz, 447; Yücel, 91; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları Beyliği," 863; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 319.

However, Kastamonu Emir II.Süleyman Bey (1385-1392), was aware of the peril of enlargement of Kadı Burhaneddin's territories, so he allied with Amasya Emir Ahmed, *Taceddinoğlu* Mahmud Çelebi, *Taşanoğulları* and Bafra *Emirs*. Yet, when he was caught by Kadı, he tried to save himself by saying that his aim was to hand over *Emir* Ahmed to him.⁷²

Meanwhile, in April 1392, the Ottoman Sultan I.Bayezit (Yıldırım) (1389-1403) was preparing to seize Candaroğulları territory, in Bursa. Up on this, Kastamonu *emir* II. Süleyman, offered to be an ally to Kadı and promised not to cooperate with Kadı's enemies. Kadı accepted his offer after getting this promise, but not sure of his obedience, sent one of his close relatives Mehmet (Feyç) Çelebi-who had been *vezir* to Amasya *Emir* Ahmed- to confirm his will. However, Mehmet Çelebi did not fulfill his will and allied with the enemies, Taceddinoğlu Mahmut Çelebi and Candaroğlu II. Süleyman. Moreover, he asked the same to Emir Ahmed, Taşanoğlu and Bafra Emir.⁷³

Again, Kadı Burhaneddin was confronted by strong enemies. However, the Ottoman annexation over Candaroğlu territories prevented this alliance to fulfill their goal; and II. Süleyman was again, asking Kadı Burhaneddin help.⁷⁴

In spite of these, Kadı Burhaneddin thought Ottoman danger to be a common problem, and started arrangements for war. But, while he was on his way to set headquarter in *Tavra* (Tavere), Yıldırım Bayezid acted faster and waged war with II. Süleyman, whom was killed; and this meant, from this time on, Candaroğulları territory was Ottoman territory (1392).⁷⁵ With this victory, for the Ottomans, difficulties were eliminated to get to the Northern Anatolia, and this paved the way the capture of Kastamonu, Küre, Osmancık and Samsun. So, getting afraid of this enlargement, Amasya Emir Ahmed allied with the Ottomans in stead of Kadı, along with Taşanoğulları. Following their adherence, Taceddinoplu Mahmud Çelebi would do the same, by sending his brother Kılıç Arslan to Yıldırım Bayezid.⁷⁶

All these developments opened the way for a war between Yıldırım and

72 *Bezm u Rezm*, 396-397; Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 35; Yaşar Yücel, "Kastamonu'nun İlk Fethine Kadar Candaroğulları-Osmanlı Münasebetleri," 81.

73 *Bezm u Rezm*, 396-397; Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 35; Yaşar Yücel, "Kastamonu'nun İlk Fethine Kadar Candaroğulları-Osmanlı Münasebetleri," 81.

74 *Bezm u Rezm*, 400-401; Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 481; Yücel, *Çobanoğulları-Candaroğulları...*, 82-83.

75 *Bezm u Rezm*, 402 vd.; Dilcimen, 36; Turan, *Tarihi Takvimler...*, 18; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 113; Yücel, *Çobanoğulları-Candaroğulları...*, 83.

76 *Bezm u Rezm*, 403 vd.; Dilcimen, 37; Oğuz, 482; Turan, *Tarihi Takvimler...*, 18; M. Halil Yinanç, "Bayezid I," İA.; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 113.

Kadı and two armies waged war at Kırkdilim⁷⁷ in Çorumlu region, which ended with the Ottoman defeat (1392). After this defeat, Yıldırım went back to Bursa and turned his face towards Balkan region.⁷⁸

After the withdraw of the Ottomans, Taceddinoğlu Mahmud and his brothers were obliged to turn to Kadı Burhaneddin. Meanwhile, in the beginning of 1393, the leading figure of the Mongolians, Timur was on the way to Anatolia and while Kadı was on this danger, he was once more betrayed by Emir Ahmed, who plundered Tokat's Zile region. Facing this unpredicted dangers, Kadı decided to give an end and planned an immediate expedition. In a short time, Amasya was taken and *Emir Ahmed's* notable *bey*s, even his sister were, taken as prisoners, whereas *Emir Ahmed* had been able to shelter into the castle. On the other hand, Kadı, either thought of the fierce winter conditions or the Ottoman endanger in the west, left Amasya and returned to Tokat; while following this, *Emir Ahmed* left his territories to the Ottomans. Meanwhile, Mahmud Çelebi sheltered some of Kadı's run away forces and getting angry to this, Kadı decided to make an expedition over Mahmud Çelebi, whom has started to cooperate with the Ottomans. In the spring of 1383, he acquired Fenariyye⁷⁹ and started to build a castle. Succeeding this, three brothers, Mahmud Çelebi, Alp Arslan and Kılıç Arslan wanted Yıldırım Bayezid's help, while Kadı, influenced by the Tatarian and Mongolian Emirs, was prepared to seize the most crucial region of the Middle Anatolia, Amasya, for the second time.

Hesitating to wage war with a stronger army of Kadı, Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi sent a delegation to Yıldırım Bayezid, told him that Kadı's forces were about to get defeated and wanted his arrival as soon as possible. When, Yıldırım gathered his forces and came to Merzifon, Kadı first sheltered into Turhal castle, then went to Tokat and returned to Sivas after a little while. By this, again, Amasya and the rest of the region became the Ottoman territory, and in spite of holding an important region of Ankara, Yıldırım did not think about enlarging his territory with Tokat and Sivas, and went back to Bursa.⁸⁰

In the winter of 1393-1394, Timur was on the way to uphold an

77 A village between Osmançık and Çorum, which takes its name from a mountain. Further info. Dılcimen, 37.

78 *Bezm u Rezm*, 405; Uzunçarşılı, "Sivas ve Kayseri Hükümdarı Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed," 211; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 115-118.

79 No info. was found about this region.

80 *Bezm u Rezm*, 415-420; Dılcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 38; Oğuz, "Taceddinoğulları," 482; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 115-118.

influence over Taceddinoğulları, Taşanoğulları and Bafra emirs, and was about to seize Erzincan. It could be derived that, despite the common Ottoman danger, Timur saw Kadı Burhaneddin as one of his hardest enemies. When Timur was entering into the Anatolia, Tacaddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi's forces consisted of 6000 soldiers.⁸¹

Timur did not lose much time in Anatolia and after occupying Erzincan to see how strong the enemy forces, he returned to his territory. Kadı Burhaneddin, meanwhile, learned Yıldırım Bayezid was struggling with his enemies in Rumelia, and he started maneuvering. First, he tried to ensure balance of power by taking Taceddinoğulları to his side. For this, he sent Mehmed Çelebi, a misgiven decision, but Çelebi, who was a relative of Taceddin Bey, provoked Taceddinoğulları against Kadı. At this time, Alp Arslan from Taceddinoğulları, rebelled against his brother Mahmud Çelebi and this paved the way for the breaking up of the territory into two. While Alp Arslan seized Niksar and Yenişehir⁸² castle; Mahmud Çelebi, merged with his the other brothers, Kılıç Arslan and Süleyman and attempted an attack. Although previously, we have seen that three brothers moved together on the face of Ottomans, we could not see any trace about Alp Arslan's obedience to Ottoman State.

Heralding about alliance of his brothers, he called out for Kadı Burhaneddin's help. Finding this convenient opportunity, by an excuse of sending aid, Kadı entered to the Niksar region. Up on this, Alp Arslan told Kadı that his brother Mahmud withdrew from the region and was on his way to declare his dependency to Kadı, so there was no need for his forward move. Kadı accommodated close to Niksar and waited for Alp Arslan, but moved forward when he did not yet arrive. Alp Arslan came to his presence a little while later and declared his obedience to Kadı and told about his elder brother Mahmud Çelebi's hostility. Completing the task, Kadı Burhaneddin returned to his territory and for the next task, moved to Canik region. There, he started to build a castle. Facing this reputable enemy, Turcomen *beys* and *emirs* decided to cooperate against this common enemy. The alliance, as formerly, was consisted of Emir Sevinç, Taceddinoğlu Mamud Çelebi and Hacı Emiroğlu Süleyman Bey. However, this did not last long and each ally become

81 *Bezm u Rezm*, 448-449; Yücel, 121-122.

82 No info. was found about the location of the castle.

responsible from his own region.⁸³ In 1397, Hacı Emiroğlu Süleyman moved with 12,000 forces towards Trabzon Greek Empire, seized the entire Giresun and opened the region to Turk settlements.⁸⁴

Breaking up with his allies, Hacı Emiroğlu Süleyman Bey sent his brother to Kadı Burhaneddin and declared his obedience, by offering one of his relatives to marry Kadı. So, Emir Süleyman was again dependent on Kadı, although Eretna Bey's nephew and the ruler of Develi⁸⁵ Castle (Karahisar), Feridun, was opt to provoke him against Kadı.

After a while, Kadı acquired Maden Castle from Ottomans, then he came to Niksar to punish Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi, whom had allied against him, with Emir Sevinç and Emir Süleyman. Here, he rewarded Alp Arslan with precious gifts. But, this time, the ruler of Develi, Feridun pulled him to his side and attempted to poison Kadı. Kadı has heralded the plan beforehand from his sister's son and ruler of Kayseri *Sheikh* Müeyyed. Moreover, in stead of removing from the scene, Feridun sent two falcons as gifts to both Alp Arslan and Kadı, but with one difference: the best kind to Alp Arslan, the worst one to Kadı, meaning the value of the ruler was worth of it. Kadı, in the end, caught both Feridun and Alp Arslan and prisoned the first to Niksar Castle and thought to free Alp Arslan up on to the condition of getting Yenişehir Castle. So, he went to the castle and wanted castle community to hand it over to him and when they did not accept, he killed Alp Arslan himself (1394).⁸⁶ In the following period, happy to eliminate one of his enemies, Kadı Burhaneddin always told this incident to menace his enemies.⁸⁷

Taceddinoğlu Alp Arslan had two sons called Hüsameddin Hasan and Hüsameddin Mehmed Yavuz. They have abandoned their territories after his father was killed for the north and continued to rule over Çarşamba, Terme and Samsun.⁸⁸

83 İ.H. Uzunçarşılı, *Kitabeler I*, 27; *Bezm u Rezm*, 432 vd; Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 38-39; Oğuz, "Taceddinoğulları," 483; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 136; Merçil, "Taced-dinoğulları Beyliği," 863; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devleti Tarihi*, 320.

84 J.P. Pallmerayer, *Trabzon Rum İmparatorluğu Tarihi*, 209; *Bezm u Rezm*, 529; Sümer, *Oğuzlar...*, 328.

85 Known as Yeşilhisar today, lies in Kayseri. Besim Darkot, "Karahisar," *İA*.

86 *Bezm u Rezm*, 444; Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 40; Oğuz, "Taceddinoğulları," 484, Uzunçarşılı, "Sivas ve Kayseri Hükümdarı Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed," 212; Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri*, 153; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 137; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları Beyliği," 86; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 320.

87 *Bezm u Rezm*, 465; Dilcimen, 40; Oğuz, 484.

88 Uzunçarşılı, *Kitabeler I*, 27; Dilcimen, 40; Oğuz, 484; Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri*, 154; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları Beyliği," 863; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 320.

Kadı Burhaneddin built a castle close to Yenişehir Castle and located an army. Heralding this, Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi attacked Kadı, but failed, and continued his attacks as guerilla movements. At this time, Kadı returned to Niksar and get rid of his other enemy, Feridun in 1394 spring. But beginning from 1398, he was disrupted by the Ottoman Sultan, Yıldırım Bayezid, whom has acquired the Muslim Samsun and gave it to Bulgarian prince Alexandr Şişman, that has converted to Islam.⁸⁹ Supporting this, Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi and Hacı Emiroğlu Süleyman as well as Taşanoğulları, recognized Ottomans. When after a short while in 1398, Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed was killed by Akkoyunlu ruler Karayülük Osman in Karabel,⁹⁰ the territories were left to the Ottomans⁹¹ and it was the same year that Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi declared his obedience and the Ottoman territories were one more time, enlarged. (1398)⁹²

The resources we used of Dilcimen and Oğuz, do not refer Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi's subordination to the Ottomans, whereas Uzunçarşılı mentions in the first volume of his *Osmanlı Tarihi* that Taceddinoğulları Mahmud and Alp Arslan, as well as rulers of Ordu, Giresun and Bafra have become domain of Ottoman State, when Canik and Muslim Samsun were captured in 1398 by Yıldırım.

However, as mentioned above, Taceddinoğlu Alp Arslan had been killed by Kadı Burhaneddin in 1394 in front of Yenişehir castle, so it is debatable. The territories of two brothers around Niksar, were left to Kadı Burhaneddin in 1394, and Mahmud Çelebi has abandoned the territories, while Terme and Çarşamba were dominated by neither Alp Arslan's sons Hüsameddin Hasan nor Mehmed Yavuz Bey.

As referred earlier, we are not informed about Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi's situation after his being under the rule of the Ottomans, although his name was not referred in the sources, it is possible that Mahmud Çelebi fought against the Mongolians of Timur in 1402, Ankara War, with the Ottomans. Following the defeat of the Ottomans, he must have sided with one of Çelebi Mehmet's sons, 13 year-old son, Şehzade Mustafa, whom has run away to Karamanoğlu after his brother II. Murad (1404-1451) got to the throne.

89 Oğuz, "Taceddinoğulları," 484; Uzunçarşılı, *Osmanlı Tarihi*, vol.1, Ankara 1972, 298.

90 Located in the west of Zara, today lies in between Sivas and Divriği. *Kitab-ı Diyarbakriyya*,44; Uzunçarşılı, "Sivas ve Kayseri Hükümdarı Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed," 221; Yücel, *Kadı Burhaneddin Ahmed ve Devleti*, 156; Halil Edhem, *Kayseri Şehri*, 145.

91 Dilcimen, *Canik Beyleri*, 41; M.H. Yinanç, "I. Bayezid," *İA*; Oğuz, 484; Yücel, 138.

92 Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri...*, 153; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları Beyliği," 863; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 320.

Karamanoğlu, using the advantage of the power struggle, provoked Şehzade Mustafa against II. Murad and with the help of neighboring settlement Germiyan, ensured an army. Şehzade Mustafa, in the end, has insurged against his brother and in this uprising, Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi is seen on the side of Şehzade.⁹³

When Şehzade Mustafa came to Bursa, the local notables Hoşkadam and Ahi Yakub presented precious carpets as gifts, and stated that although Mustafa had right to rule over, they had declared their obedience to II. Murad, so they could not hand over Bursa to him. Facing this, Mustafa moved to İznik and when arrived to İznik Castle, his brother II.Murad moved immediately from Edirne and told the ruler of the Castle Ali Bey to hand over castle to Mustafa. Also, he sent news to Mustafa's vezir Şarabdar İlyas to keep him busy, until he comes, compensated by a promise of Anatolian rule. Obeying Murad's order, İlyas tried to keep him busy with number of entertainments, which failed Mustafa, but not Mahmud Çelebi. Understanding something would about to occur, Mahmud tried to persuade Mustafa to go back to Karaman, but could not achieve. At this time, Murad's forces made an immediate descent to the castle, and caught Mustafa, whom was tried to be escaped by Mahmud Çelebi. Taceddinoğlu Mahmud Çelebi fought bravely in the struggle with Mihaloğlu Mehmed, whereas Şarabdar İlyas caught Mustafa and gave him in to Murad. At the end, Mustafa was hung in front of İznik Castle and Taceddinoğlu Mahmud was killed by relatives of Mihaloğlu Mehmed in 1423.⁹⁴

The End of Taceddinoğulları Settlement

It was maintained that Muslim Samsun was seized by the Ottomans in 1398, but following the Ankara war defeat of Ottomans, it was recaptured by the ruler Kubadoğlu Cüneyd. Meanwhile, Timur handed over the territories abandoned by the emirs and beys in Anatolia, whom have started to enlarge their influence using the advantage of fall of Ottoman state in Anatolia. Alp

93 Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri...*, 153; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları Beyliği," 863; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 320.

94 Hammer, *Devlet-i Osmanîyye Tarihi*, vol.2, trans. Mehmed Ata, İstanbul 1913, 174-175; Turan, *Tarihi Takvimler...*, 23, 60; Mehmed Neşri, *Kitab-ı Cihan-Nüma*, vol.2, ed. F. Reşit Unat-Mehmet A. Köymen, Ankara 1957, 570-571; Uzunçarşılı, *Anadolu Beylikleri*, 154; *Aşıkpaşaoğlu Tarihi*, ed. H. Nihal Adsız, İstanbul 1970, 108; Hoca Sadedin, *Tacü't-Tevarih*, vol.2 pub. İsmet Parmaksızoğlu, İstanbul 1975; 137-138; Uzunçarşılı, *Osmanlı Tarihi*, vol.1, 393; Merçil, "Taceddinoğulları Beyliği," 863; *Müneccimbaşı Tarihi*, c.1, pub. İsmail Erünsal, İstanbul (no year), 204-205; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 320.

Arslan Bey's Hüsameddin Hasan was one of them that started to rule over in some regions in Anatolia after 1402.

Some Ottoman historians referred Alp Arslan's son Hasan Bey as Hüseyin Bey, by mistake.⁹⁵ However, Uzunçarşılı mentions that regarding the *vakıfs* (endowment) in Çarşamba and the mosque taking his name dating 827 (1423-1424), proves that Hasan Bey was the son. In these writings belonging to the *vakif* mosque, it is written:

“Noble, peace-keeper, man of justice, source of generosity, successor of a powerfull state Hasan Bey, Alp Arslan's son, and grand-son of Emir Taceddin Bey.”

Again transcribed by Uzunçarşılı in Yavuz Evliya *vakif*, dating 827 (1423-1424):

“Successor of powerfull state and holly religion Muhammed Yavuz Bey, son of Emir Alp Arslan and grand-son of Emir Taceddin Bey.”

Following 1402, Alp Arslan's son Hasan Bey allied with neighboring Candaroğlu İsfendiyar Bey (1392-1439) and moved together to get Samsun from Kubadoğlu Cüneyd. While Hasan Bey was able to capture Çarşamba, İsfendiyar Bey called out his son in order to capture Bafra and Muslim Samsun. Yet, Ottoman Sultan Çelebi Mehmet moved faster and sending Biçeroğlu Hamza Bey, was able to capture Christian and Muslim Samsun, respectively in 1418. Successor of Tacettinoğulları Hasan Bey and his brother Mehmet Yavuz Bey continued to rule over their territories up until II. Murat era.⁹⁶

While II. Murad was *şehzade* in Amasya, he appointed his *vezir* Yörgüç Pasha to rule over Sivas, Tokat, Amasya and Çorum. His first struggle was against Kızıl-Koca Turcomen tribe, since they disrupted the peace by uprisings and raids to the villages. Heralding their presence with 400 forces in Niksar, Yörgüç Pasha sent a letter as if the Sultan was saying: *“My will is to get Canik from Alp Arslan's son Hasan and hand it over to the Ottomans. Meet with my vezir Yörgüç Pasha and wage war against Hasan, at the end you are allowed*

95 Hammer, 186; Halil Edhem, 319; *Tacü't-Tevarih*, vol.2, 164; *Müneccibaşı Tarihi*, 213; Tayyip Gökbilgin, *Osmanlı Müesseseleri Teşkilatı ve Medeniyeti Tarihine Genel Bakış*, İstanbul 1977, 87.

96 Dalcimen, 41-42; Oğuz, 485; Neşri, *Kitab-ı Cihan-Nüma*, 541; Yücel, “Candaroğlu Çelebi İsfendiyar Bey (1392-1459),” *Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi*, vol.1-2, no:2-3 (1964), 170; *Tacü't Tevarih*, vol.2, 94-95; İ.H. Uzunçarşılı, “Mehmed I,” *İA*; Halil İncik, “Murad II,” *İA*; Uzunçarşılı, *Osmanlı Tarihi*, vol.1, 357-358; Merçil, “Taceddinoğulları Beyliği,” 863; Yücel, *Çobanoğulları-Candaroğulları*, 93; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*, 320.

to get Artukova.⁹⁷” Willing to take part in the plan, Kızıl-Koca tribe first declared to obey the orders, but then planned to kill Yörgüç Pasha. Pasha learning about the assassination plan, sent his son Hızır Bey to Merzifon and wanted him to say that his father would not be able to take part in the attack because of his illness and Hasan would be responsible. The tribe was welcomed and accommodated by Hızır Bey nicely in Amasya, but Yörgüç Pasha took his revenge sadly, when kept them into a cave and suffocated them to menace the rest of the tribes that were busy with raiding.⁹⁸

Yörgüç Paşa was in thought of getting Canik region and handing it over to the Ottomans. In order to fulfill his goal, he invited Hasan Bey to a wedding dinner in 831 (1427-1428), but not trusting his sincerity, Hasan Bey sent a message saying: “*If your aim is to gain some territories of mine, the consent belongs to the Ottoman Sultan. If he desires, I would be able to find peace under Ottoman rule.*” Getting the message, Yörgüç Paşa started to make arrangements for an expedition to Canik, but again Hasan Bey sent a message: “*I have had no opposition to the Ottoman rule, if it is your will to get my territories, I shall be happy to hand them over and show my deep respect to the Sultan.*” After this message, Hasan Bey came to visit Yörgüç Pasha along with his family and delivered the symbolic key of his territories. But, Yörgüç Pasha sent him to Bursa to be prisoned and kept his family in Amasya. Hasan Bey, running away from the castle he was hold in Bursa, for two years, wandered around and understanding he could not gain his territory, went directly to Sultan II.Murad asking his consent. II. Murad appointed him to a village in Rumelia and sent his family from Amasya. (1427). By this way, Alp Arslan’s son Hasan Bey’s territories were included in the Ottoman borders.⁹⁹

In his book *Amasya Tarihi* of 1927, Hüseyin Hüsameddin was the first historian to refer the Rumelian village that Hasan was appointed as Gümülçine, but not supported this with any reference (vol.31,pg.202). Following the same path, in his book *Osmanlı Tarihi*, Uzunçarşılı mentioned the same, whereas the editors of Neşri’s *Kitab-ı Cihan-Nüma*, F. Reşit Unat and M. A. Köymen refers the same, even though it is not mentioned in the

97 Today called Artova, in Tokat.

98 Hammer, 185; Uzunçarşılı, *Kitabeler I.*, 25-26; Dilcimen, 43; *Neşri Tarihi*, 592-598; *Aşıkpaşaoğlu Tarihi*, 118-120; *Tacü-Tevarih*, 158-160; Gökbilgin, 85-86; *Müneccimbaşı Tarihi*, vol.1, 210-211.

99 Hammer, 186; Uzunçarşılı, *Kitabeler I.*,27; Dilcimen, 43-44; Oğuz, 486; *Neşri Tarihi*, 600-602; Uzunçarşılı, *Osmanlı Tarihi*, vol.1,405-406; *Aşıkpaşaoğlu Tarihi*, 121; *Tacü’t Tevarih*, 161-164; Merçil, “Taceddinoğulları Beyliği,” vol.1, 213; Merçil, *Müslüman Türk Devletleri Tarihi*,320.

original. Dilcimen and Oğuz do not refer Gümülcine, whereas in his *Osmanlı Müesseseleri Teşkilatı ve Medeniyeti Tarihine Genel Bakış*, T. Gökbilgin mentions it is possible to be Çirmen. Since we do not encounter any specific year and location, we are not very well informed about where Hasan was assigned.

On the other hand, in Dilcimen's *Canik Beyleri*, without showing a reference, it is mentioned that Alp Arslan's other son Hüsameddin Mehmed Yavuz has died before Hasan Bey (pg.42). Bearing in mind this, it should not be ignored that after the conquest of İstanbul, Trabzon Greek Emperor IV. Kalo İoannes' territories have been seized by Safevi *Sheikh* Cüneyd in 1454 and Taceddinoğlu Mehmed Bey was referred to be included in his company.¹⁰⁰ It could be guessed that *Sheikh* Cüneyd aimed to establish a state in Trabzon and having this in mind, he visited Canik and Niksar and met Taceddinoğlu Mehmed Bey. Allying with Mehmed, *Sheikh* Cüneyd planned to attack Kalo İoannes. At first, Kalo İoannes arrived to Aya Fokas Manastir¹⁰¹ with his forces, whereas Cüneyd set up his headquarters in Meliars¹⁰² and closed the Kapanion strait.¹⁰³ İoannes ordered both his land and sea forces to surround the land and at the end of a hardly fought war, with the help of the heavy weather condition, Emperor's forces were defeated and were captured as prisoners.

Proceeding this, *Sheikh* Cüneyd reached up until to Trabzon castle, set up his headquarter in today's İmaret Mosque¹⁰⁴ region, plundered the west of Trabzon for three days, yet did not success to hold the whole city (1454) and returned back to Kelkit. Another reason for his giving up was the appointment of Hızır Bey of Sivas by Fatih Sultan Mehmet in order to keep Kalo İoannes safe.¹⁰⁵

Taceddinoğlu Mehmet Bey, whom has accompanied *Sheikh* Cüneyd in the expeditions, should be Alp Arslan's son Mehmed Yavuz Bey. Up to then, no sources are found regarding the fate of Mehmed Bey and Taceddinoğulları.

100 M.C. Şehabeddin Tekindağ, "Trabzon," *İA*.

101 Today referred as Akçakale. The remnants could be seen. M. Bijişkyan, 40.

102 It must be one of the districts of Vakfikebir region, in the west of Trabzon.

103 It should be the narrow gate in between Vakfikebir and Akçaabat.

104 The district takes its name from Yavuz Sultan Selim's mother Gülbahar Hatun today.

105 J. P. Fallmarayer, 251; Walter Hinz, *Uzun Hasan ve Şeyh Cüneyd*, trans. Tevfik Bıyıklıoğlu, Ankara 1948; 20; M.Şehabeddin Tekindağ, "Trabzon," *İA*.